

House Resolution 272

By: Representatives Sellier of the 136th, Cheokas of the 134th, Talton of the 145th, Pruett of the 144th, and O'Neal of the 146th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Lieutenant Colonel Bert M. Atkinson for his induction into the Georgia Aviation
2 Hall of Fame; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Bert M. Atkinson was born and raised in Newnan, Georgia,
4 attending Georgia Military College and the University of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, while commissioned in the United States Army, Lt. Colonel Atkinson attended
6 the newly created Army Signal Corps Aviation School at North Island in San Diego,
7 California, and later qualified for an Aero Club of America pilot's license, received a Junior
8 Military Aviator rating, and was engaged in the campaign to capture Pancho Villa; and

9 WHEREAS, a distinguished and outstanding serviceman, Lt. Colonel Atkinson was one of
10 the 26 aviators assigned to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps when the United States
11 entered World War I, and he was responsible for the leadership and movement of ten
12 squadrons in Europe; and

13 WHEREAS, after his dedicated service as a guardian of the nation's freedom and liberty, Lt.
14 Colonel Atkinson organized the first aerial forest firefighting unit and assisted the United
15 States Air Mail Service in establishing transcontinental air routes; and

16 WHEREAS, during his lifetime, Lt. Colonel Atkinson was awarded with the Purple Heart
17 from the United States, the Croix de Guerre with Palm and the French Legion of Honor from
18 France, and the Order of Leopold and the Belgium War Cross from Belgium; and

19 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2009, Lt. Colonel Atkinson will be formally inducted into the
20 Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Robins Air Force Base Museum of
21 Aviation; and

22 WHEREAS, Lt. Colonel Atkinson is rightfully deserving of admission into the Georgia
23 Aviation Hall of Fame for his many successes and the example he has set for so many, and
24 it is both fitting and proper that we recognize this great pilot's contribution to Georgia's
25 aviation history.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 this body honors the life and memory of Lieutenant Colonel Bert M. Atkinson and recognize
28 his induction into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Lt. Colonel
31 Atkinson.